

CLAIMS

1. A reproducing apparatus for reproducing information stored in an information storage medium, the reproducing apparatus comprising:

reproducing means for reproducing the information stored in the information storage medium;

recognition means for recognizing identification information for identifying the information storage medium;

memory means for storing information including the identification information;

reproduction halt control means for causing the memory means to store, when halting a reproduction of an information storage medium, (i) identification information of the information storage medium, which identification information has been recognized by the recognition means, and (ii) halt position information such that the identification information and the halt position information are correlated with each other, the halt position information identifying a halt position on the information storage medium, from which halt position the reproducing means starts a reproduction of the information storage medium so that a next reproduction of the information storage medium starts from the halt position; and

reproduction start control means for controlling a reproduction start position in accordance with the halt position information stored in the memory means, when starting a reproduction of the information storage medium.

2. The reproducing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

when halting a reproduction of an information storage medium whose identification information is not recognizable by the recognition means, the reproduction halt control means sets identification information for the information storage medium, and causes the memory means to store (i) the identification information thus set and (ii) halt position information such that the identification information and the halt position information are correlated with each other; and

when starting a reproduction of the information storage medium whose identification information is not recognizable by the recognition means, the reproduction start control means controls a reproduction start position in accordance with the halt position information that is correlated with the identification information, stored in the memory means, that has been set when halting the reproduction.

3. The reproducing apparatus as set forth in claim 1 or 2, wherein:

the memory means is able to store (i) respective identification information of information storage media, and (ii) respective halt position information of the information storage media; and

when starting a reproduction of an information storage medium, the reproduction start control means controls the reproduction means in accordance with halt position information of an information storage medium to be reproduced, among the halt position information of the information storage media stored in the memory means.

4. The reproducing apparatus as set forth in any one of claims 1 through 3, wherein:

when halting a reproduction of an information storage medium, the reproduction halt control means causes the memory means to store information of a reproduction content read out from a position, which comes after a reproduction halt position, of the information storage medium such that the information of the reproduction content is correlated with identification information of the information storage medium; and

when starting a reproduction of the information

storage medium, the reproduction start control means reproduces the reproduction content which has been stored in the memory means so as to be correlated with the identification information of the information storage medium, and consecutively reproduces the information storage medium.

5. The reproducing apparatus as set forth in any one of claims 1 through 3, wherein:

when halting a reproduction of an information storage medium, the reproduction halt control means causes the memory means to store information of a reproduction content read out from a position, which comes before the reproduction halt position, of the information storage medium such that the information of the reproduction content is correlated with identification information of the information storage medium; and

when starting a reproduction of the information storage medium, the reproduction start control means reproduces the reproduction content which has been stored in the memory means so as to be correlated with the identification information of the information storage medium, and consecutively reproduces the information storage medium.

6. The reproducing apparatus as set forth in any one of claims 1 through 5, wherein:

the memory means is exchangeable.

7. The reproducing apparatus as set forth in any one of claims 1 through 6, wherein:

the reproduction halt control means causes the memory means to store the respective halt position information so that an order in which the respective halt position information have been recorded can be identified.

8. The reproducing apparatus as set forth in claim 7, further comprising:

memory content management means for preferentially deleting the information from an oldest one in the order recorded, when it is necessary to increase a free storage capacity in the memory means.

9. The reproducing apparatus as set forth in any one of claims 1 through 8, further comprising:

display means for displaying contents of the information stored in the memory means;

input means for receiving a user's input; and

deactivating means for deactivating a reproduction from a halt position with respect to an information

storage medium corresponding to specific identification information that is in accordance with a user's input.

10. The reproducing apparatus as set forth in any one of claims 1 through 9, further comprising:

display means for displaying contents of the information stored in the memory means;

input means for receiving a user's input; and

deleting means for deleting from the memory means halt position information corresponding to specific identification information that is in accordance with a user's input.

11. The reproducing apparatus as set forth in claim 9 or 10, wherein:

the input means allows the user to enter another name for each of the identification information, stored in the memory means, of an information storage media;

the memory means stores said another name such that said another name is correlated with (i) identification information of the information storage medium and (ii) halt position information thereof, respectively; and

the display means displays said another name stored in the memory means.

12. A reproducing apparatus, comprising:

recognition means for recognizing identification information identifying an information storage medium;

memory means for storing identification information recognized by the recognition means;

reproduction halt control means for causing the memory means to store the identification information and halt position information for identifying a reproduction halt position on the information storage medium such that the identification information and the halt position information are correlated with each other, when halting a reproduction of the information storage medium; and

reproduction start position control means for determining, prior to a reproduction of the information storage medium and in accordance with the halt position information, a reproduction start position at a position which comes before the reproduction halt position, and for starting a reproduction from the reproduction start position.

13. The reproducing apparatus as set forth in claim 12, wherein:

the information storage medium contains a moving image, and

the reproduction start position control means

temporarily suspends the reproduction at the reproduction halt position, and displays a still image, and then restart a reproduction from the reproduction halt position.

14. The reproducing apparatus as set forth in claim 13, further comprising:

timer means for measuring time of displaying the still image, and for setting time to be measured,

wherein: the reproduction is restarted after the time thus set elapses, or the reproduction is restarted upon receipt of a reproduction instruction during displaying of the still image.

15. The reproducing apparatus as set forth in any one of claims 12 through 14, further comprising:

display means for displaying the identification information and the halt position information, each stored in the memory means; and

input means for setting the reproduction start position,

wherein: the reproduction start position control means starts a reproduction from the reproduction start position which has been set via the input means.

16. A method for reproducing information stored in an information storage medium, comprising the steps of:

(a) instructing reproducing means to halt a reproduction of the information storage medium;

(b) storing identification information and halt position information in memory means in such a manner that the identification information and the halt position information are correlated with each other, the identification information identifying the information storage medium, the halt position information indicative of a halt position from which the reproducing means should start reproducing of the information storage medium so that next reproduction starts from the halt position;

the steps (a) and (b) being carried out when halting a reproduction of the information storage medium,

(c) recognizing the identification information identifying the information storage medium;

(d) acquiring halt position information that corresponds to the identification information recognized in the step (c), among plural halt position information stored in the memory means; and

(e) controlling, in accordance with the halt position information acquired in the step (d), a reproduction start position from which the reproducing means starts a

reproduction,

the steps (c), (d), and (e) being carried out when starting of a reproduction of the information storage medium.

17. A reproducing method, comprising the steps of: storing identification information and halt position information in such a manner that the identification information and the halt position information are correlated with each other, when halting reproduction of the information storage medium, the identification information identifying the information storage medium, the halt position information identifying a reproduction halt position on the information storage medium, ; and

recognizing the identification information of the information storage medium, and starting a reproduction from the reproduction start position that is determined according to the halt position information and that comes before the reproduction halt position, when starting of a reproduction of the information storage medium.

18. The method as set forth in claim 17, wherein:
the reproduction start position is set with reference to the stored identification information and the halt position information which are displayed, and the

reproduction starts from the reproduction start position thus set.

19. A reproducing method, comprising the steps of: storing identification information and halt position information in such a manner that the identification information and the halt position information are correlated with each other, when halting a reproduction of an information storage medium, the identification information identifying the information storage medium, the halt position information identifying a reproduction halt position from which a next reproduction of the information storage medium starts;

recognizing identification information that identifies an information storage medium to be reproduced, when starting a reproduction of the information storage medium; and

identifying a reproduction start position in accordance with halt position information, which corresponds to the identification information that has been recognized, among sets of halt position information, and starting a reproduction from the reproduction start position.

20. The reproducing method as set forth in claim 19,

further comprising the steps of:

setting identification information for an information storage medium whose identification information is not recognizable, and storing the identification information thus set and the halt position information in such a manner that the identification information and the halt position are correlated with each other, the setting and the storing being carried out when halting a reproduction of the information storage medium; and

identifying the reproduction start position according to the halt position information that corresponds to the identification information that has been set and stored, when starting the reproduction of the information storage medium.

21. The reproduction method as set forth in claim 19 or 20, further comprising:

storing the identification information of an information storage medium and information of reproduction content read out from a position, which comes after the reproduction halt position, of the information storage medium in such a manner that the identification information and the readout information are correlated with each other, the storing being carried out when halting a reproduction of the information storage

medium; and

reproducing the reproduction content so that it is correlated with the identification information of the information storage medium, and consecutively reproduces the information storage medium, when starting a reproduction of the information storage medium.

22. The reproducing method as set forth in claim 19 or 20, further comprising:

storing the identification information of an information storage medium and information of reproduction content read out from a position, which comes before the reproduction halt position, of the information storage medium in such a manner that the identification information and the readout information are correlated with each other, the storing being carried out when halting a reproduction of the information storage medium; and

reproducing the reproduction content so that it is correlated with the identification information of the information storage medium, and consecutively reproduces the information storage medium, when starting a reproduction of the information storage medium.

23. A reproducing program for executing the reproducing method as set forth in any one of claims 16 through 22, the reproduction program causing a computer to perform the respective steps.

24. A computer-readable storage medium containing the reproducing program as set forth in claim 23.